

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297206

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 11985 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN
ADDIS ABABA ACCRA CONAKRY COTONOU DAR ES SALAAM KINSHASA
LIBREVILLE LISBON LONDON LOURENCO MARQUES LUSAKA PRETORIA
USUN 03 DEC 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 11985

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, AO, US

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA; MPLA VISIT TO
LAGOS

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSIONER GARBA REGARDING US CONCERN FOR ESTABLISHING
PEACE IN ANGOLA AND FOR ELIMINATING AND PREVENTING EXTERNAL
INVOLVEMENT. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT SECRETARY'S REQUEST
FOR GARBA'S VIEWS ON HOW TO BRING AN END TO OUTSIDE INTERVENTION
WILL PRODUCE REITERATION OF GARBA'S RECOMMENDATION THAT US PRESS
SOUTH AFRICA TO WITHDRAW ITS MILITARY FORCES.

2. NIGERIANS AND MANY OTHER AFRICANS SEE SOUTH AFRICAN ROLE AS
MORE SINISTER THREAT TO AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE THAN SOVIET AND CUBAN
MILITARY AID, WHICH THEY CONSIDER TO BE WITHOUT STRINGS THAT COULD
NOT BE CUT AFTERWARDS. THEY VIEW SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVITIES AS DESIGNED
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INTER ALIA, TO REDRAW ANGOLA'S SOUTHERN BOUNDARY FARTHER NORTH
IN ORDER ASSURE FURURE INTEGRAL OVAMBO HOMELAND UNDER
SOUTH AFRICAN TUTELAGE. SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT THUS DILUTE OVAMBO
PRESSURE FOR POWER-SHARING
IN ONGOING NAMIBIAN EVOLUTION TOWARD SELF-DETERMINATION. OVAMBO
HOMELAND WOULD BE BUFFER FOR SOUTHWEST AFRICA EVEN IF MPLA
EVENTUALLY WINS OUT IN REST OF ANGOLA.
SOUTH AFRICAN CLAIM TO BE FIGHTING
FREE WORLD'S BATTLE AGAINST COMMUNIST IMPERIALISM IN ANGOLA DOESN'T
MEAN VERY MUCH TO AFRICANS WHO SEE THIS AS A CYNICAL RUSE TO COVER
SOUTH AFRICAN DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN APARTHEID SYSTEM IN NAMBIA.

3. IN CONTINUING ABSENCE ANY US EXPRESSION OF DISAPPROVAL OF SOUTH
AFRICAN INTERVENTION, OUR POSITION ON ANGOLA WILL INCREASINGLY
LOSE CREDIBILITY IN AFRICAN EYES. HAVING LEANED SO HEAVILY
ON THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS, WE ARE SEEN TO BE STRANGELY RELUCTANT
TO NAME OTHERS. EXTENSION OF SOUTH AFRICAN REACH AND INFLUENCE IS
NEURALGIC ISSUE OVER-RIDING MOST OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR NIGERIANS.
IF WE CONTINUE TO REMAIN MUTE, WE PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR THOSE WHO
ALREADY ACCUSE US OF ABETTING
SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION.

4. SIX-MAN MPLA DELEGATION HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER NASCIMENTO
SPENT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY IN LAGOS "TO SEEK NIGERI'S SUPPORT FOR
THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT." ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS,
HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED TOLD THEM "NIGERIA WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE
TO ASSIST THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISH ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.
"

MUHAMMED REPORTEDLY TOLD NASCIMENTO THAT FMG RECOGNIZED MPLA
GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INVOLVEMENT. HE SAID "NIGERIA
IS COMMITTED TO THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF AFRICA AND WILL NOT ALLOW A
SITUATION WHERE AFRICANS ARE USED AS PAWNS FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF RACIAL POLICY." IN PRESS CONFERENCE AT LAGOS AIRPORT
SUNDAY NIGHT, NASCIMENTO DESCRIBED NIGERIA'S RECOGNITION OF MPLA
AS "A GREAT VICTORY FOR AFRICA IN VIEW OF NIGERIA'S IMPORTANCE."
MPLA DELEGATION RETURNED TO LUANDA IN NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE'S
EXECUTIVE AIRCRAFT.

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